

MARVEL

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022

DUGGAN
CASSARA
GRACIA





The Treehouse.
Home of the
X-Men.

The beautiful
headquarters is the
result of a merging of
mutant technology
with our natural
environment.



Krakoa may be for
mutants, but Seneca
Gardens is for everyone,
and most days, the park
is crowded with New
Yorkers and tourists
hoping to enjoy a quiet
moment away from the
din of the city.



It's a
beautiful day,
isn't it?

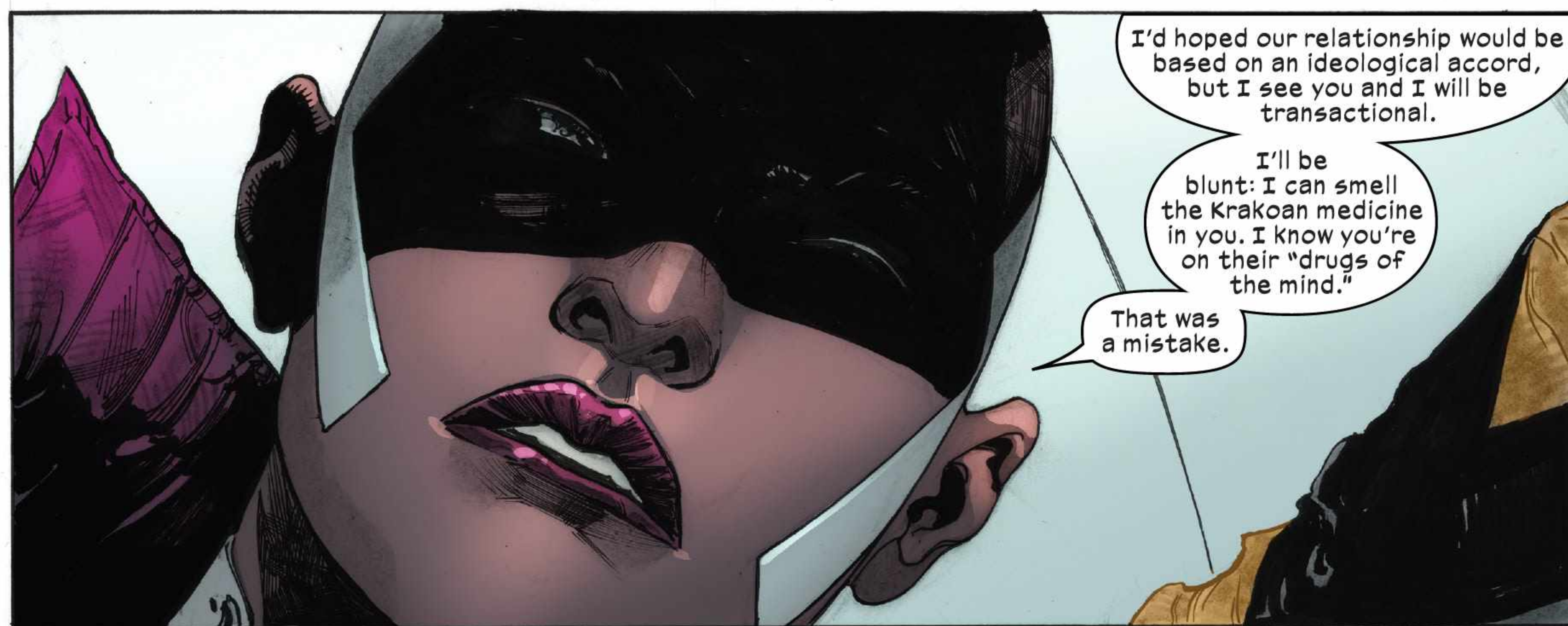
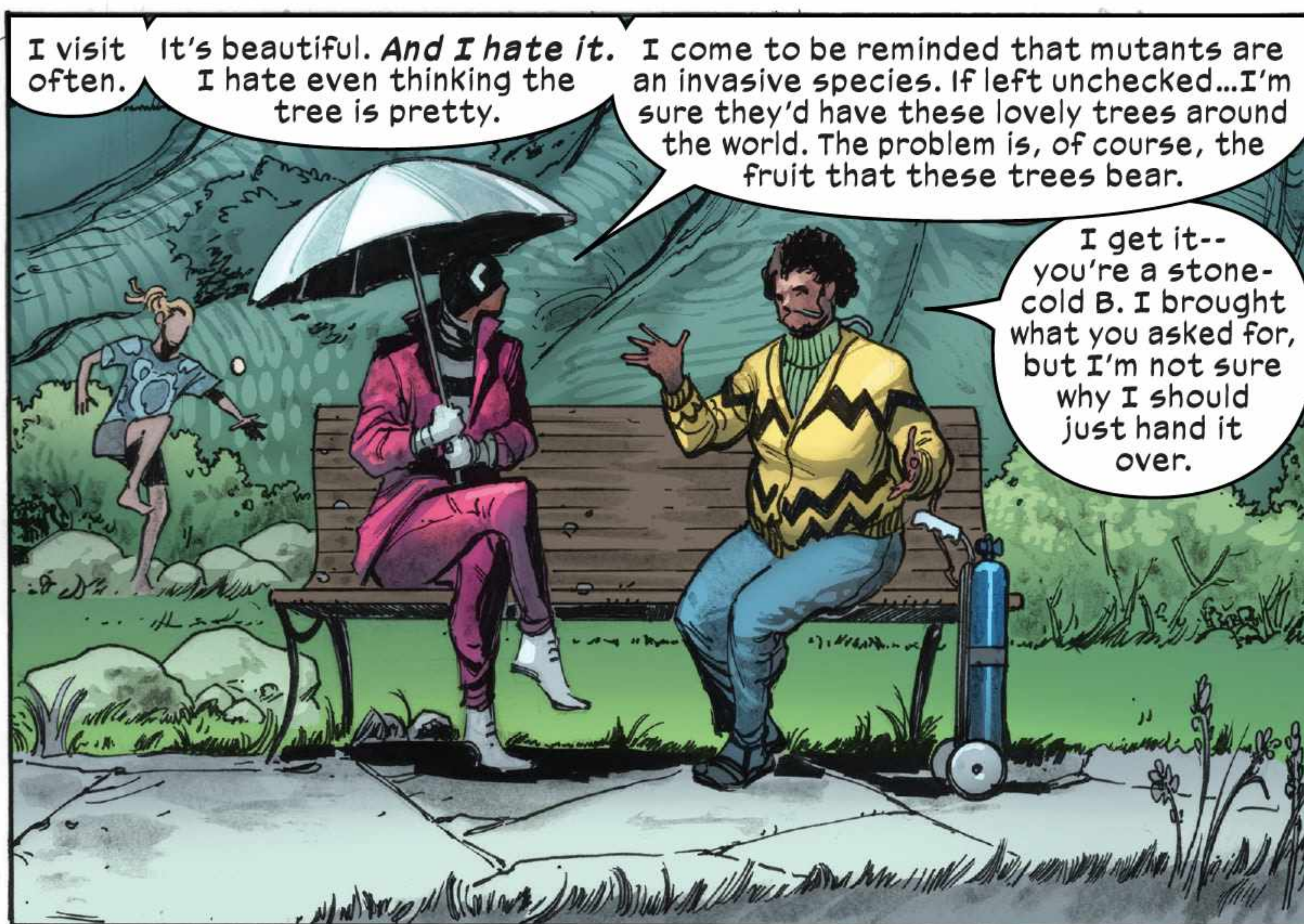
Cut
the s.

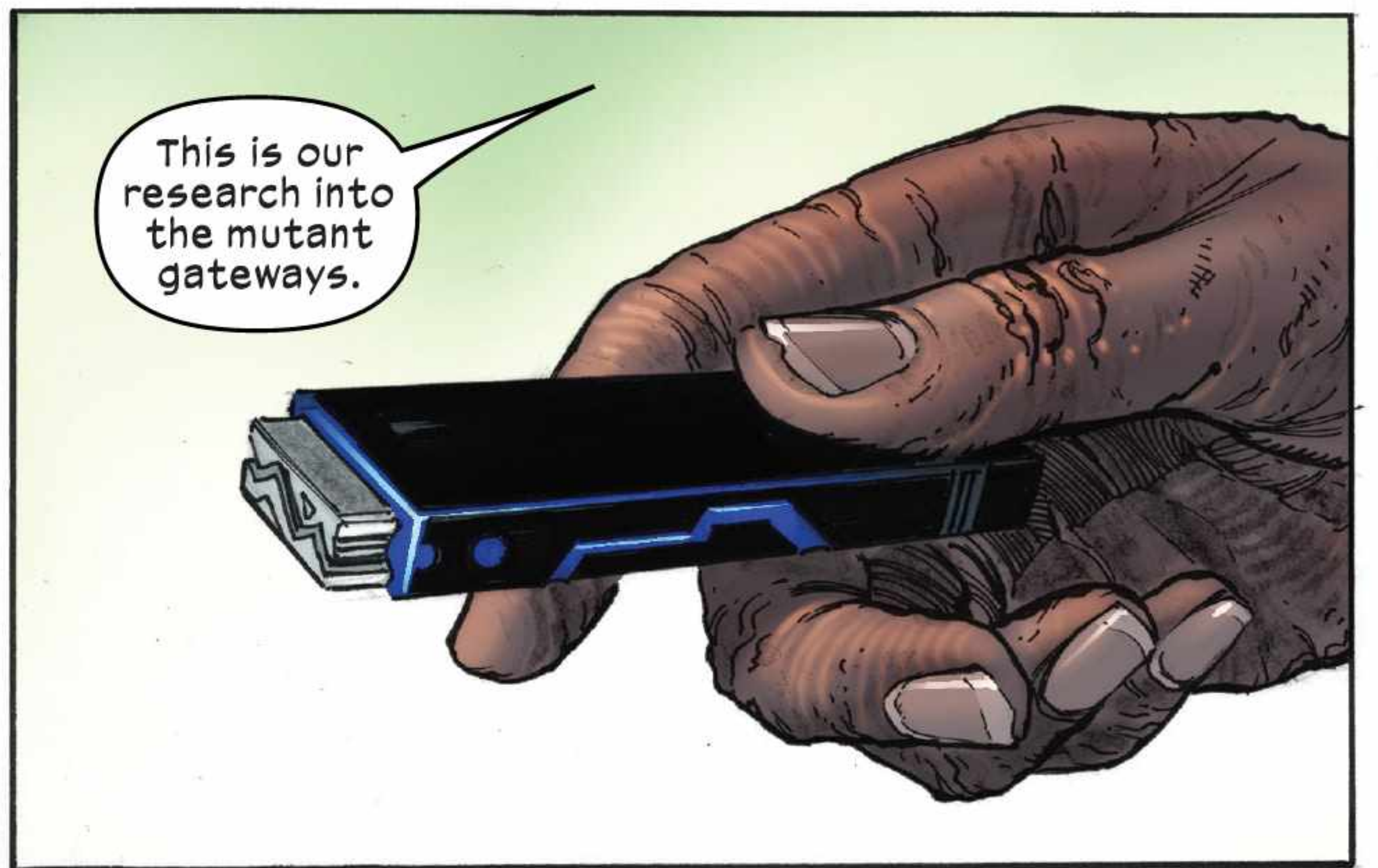
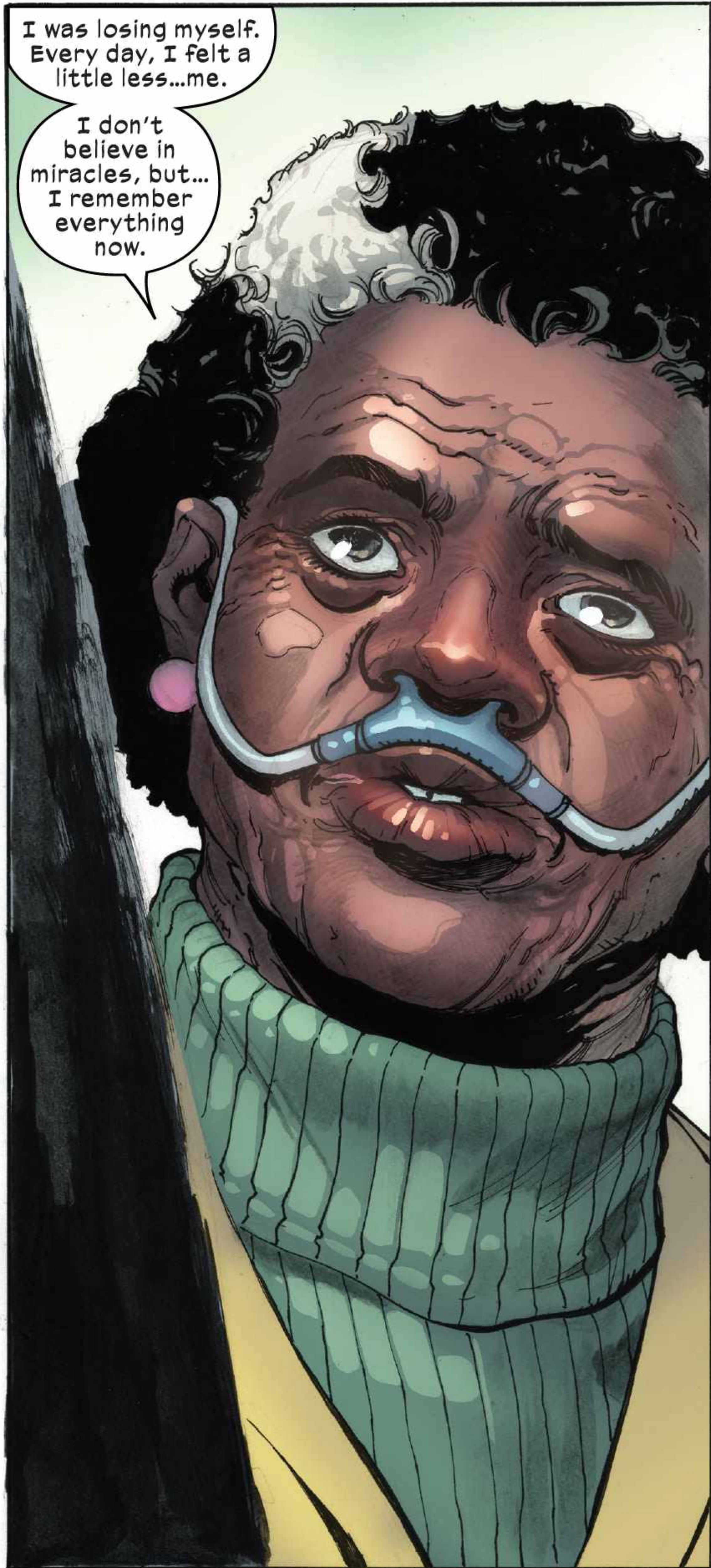


Opal Vetiver.
I am your great
admirer.

Well, well.
So you're the
crafty B who's
slithered into
my DMs.

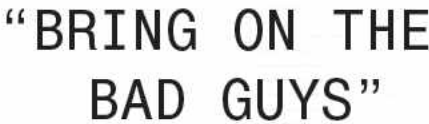
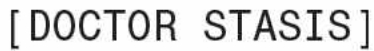
Still not
sure how you
accomplished
that.





WHO DO YOU TRUST?

Yet, even with a growing schism between two of the main members of the team, mutantkind still needs the X-Men. And the X-Men will always answer that call.



X-Men created by
Stan Lee & Jack Kirby

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ORCHIS PROTOCOL

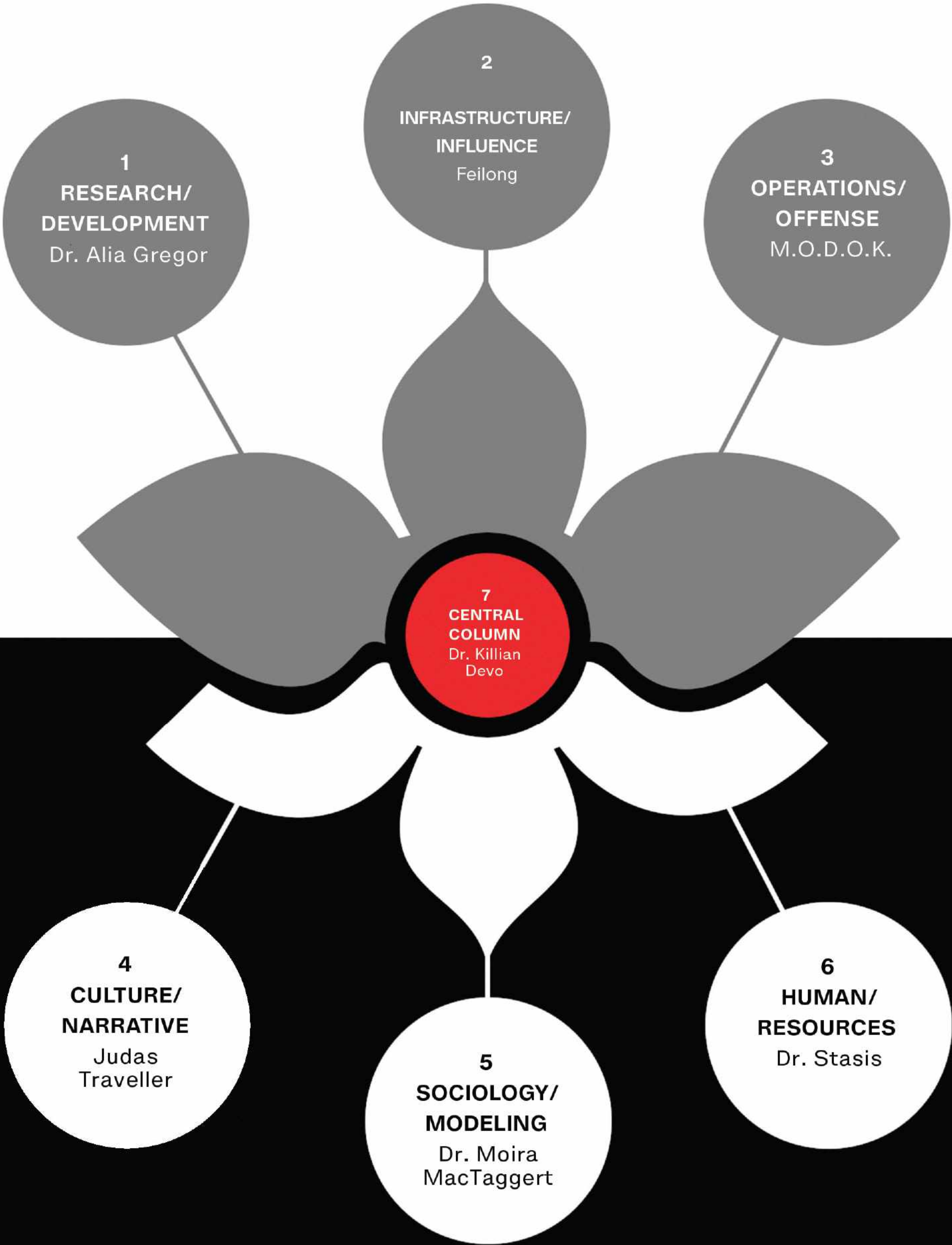
In light of multiple deep/parallel studies of current geopolitical trends, consensus holds that terrestrial domination by *Homo superior* is statistically inevitable.

Avoidance of this eventuality demands sustained resistance in every theater: **physical, economic** and **psychological**.

ORCHIS is a covert organization composed of multiple dynamic enterprises, collectively dedicated to the prevention of global mutant primacy.

This is the “awakening” phase of Orchis. After the mutant question is resolved, the central column and petals will address the superhuman question absent of whether the threat is manifested from a corrupted X-Gene.

DIRECT STRATEGIES



OBLIQUE STRATEGIES

Late that night,
across town from
the Treehouse...

...the bounty of Krakoa
is a part of the nightly
ritual of an aging
human population.



The drugs of the mind can cause drowsiness, so naturally, it's recommended they be taken before bed.



Karima Shapandar was telling the truth about the drugs: They have been secretly subverted...

...but she lied about
the perpetrators.

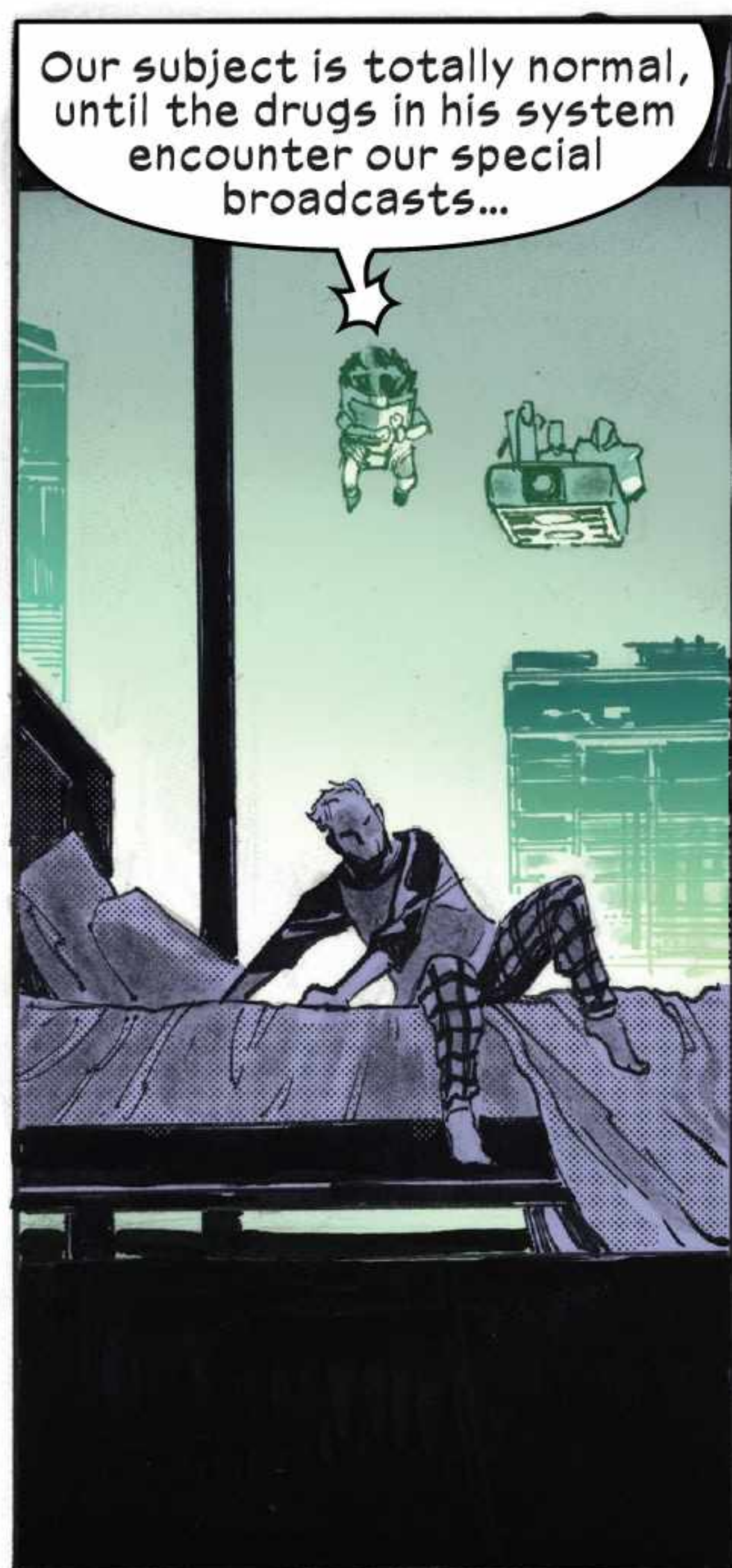
How many more
of these are
we gonna do?

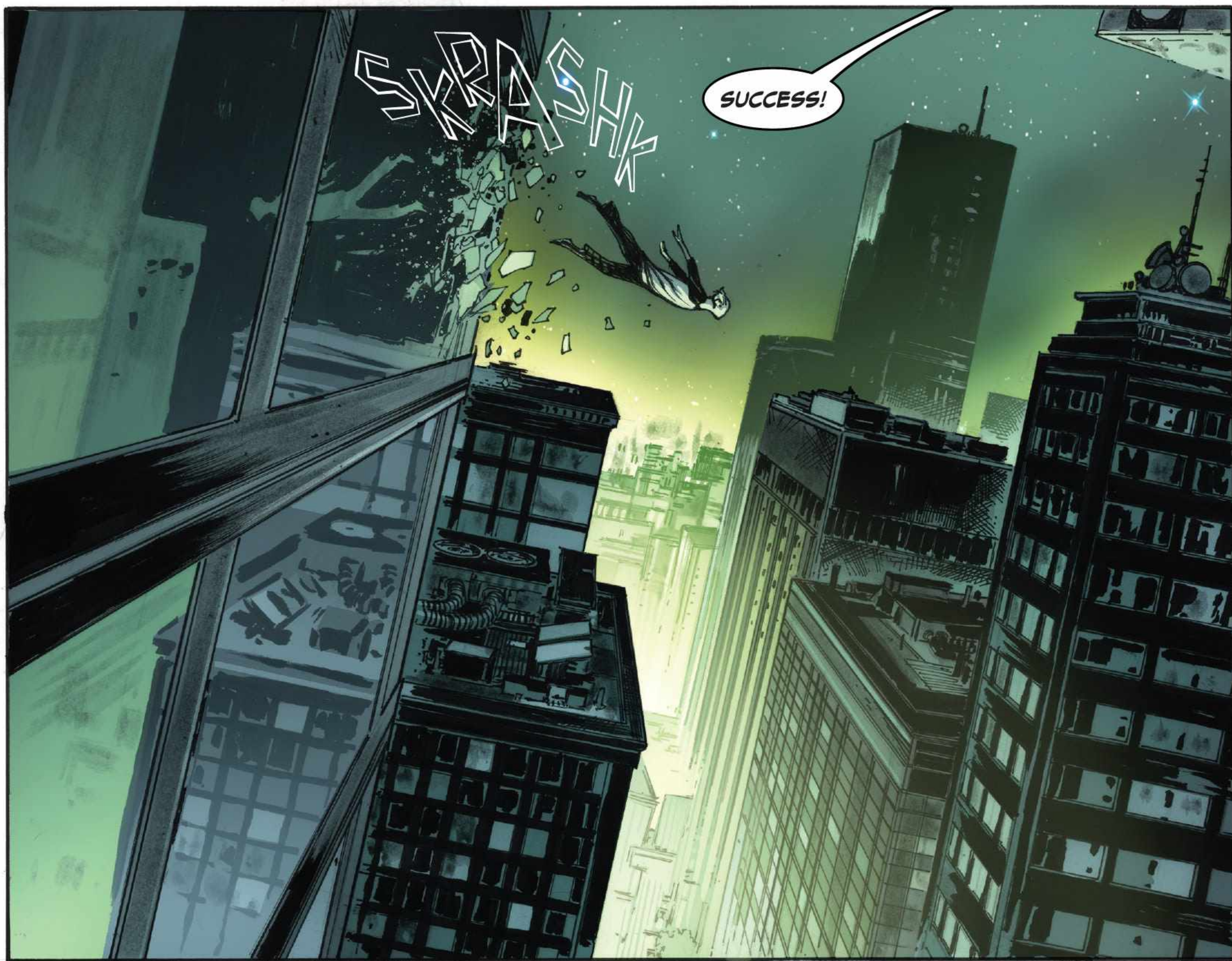
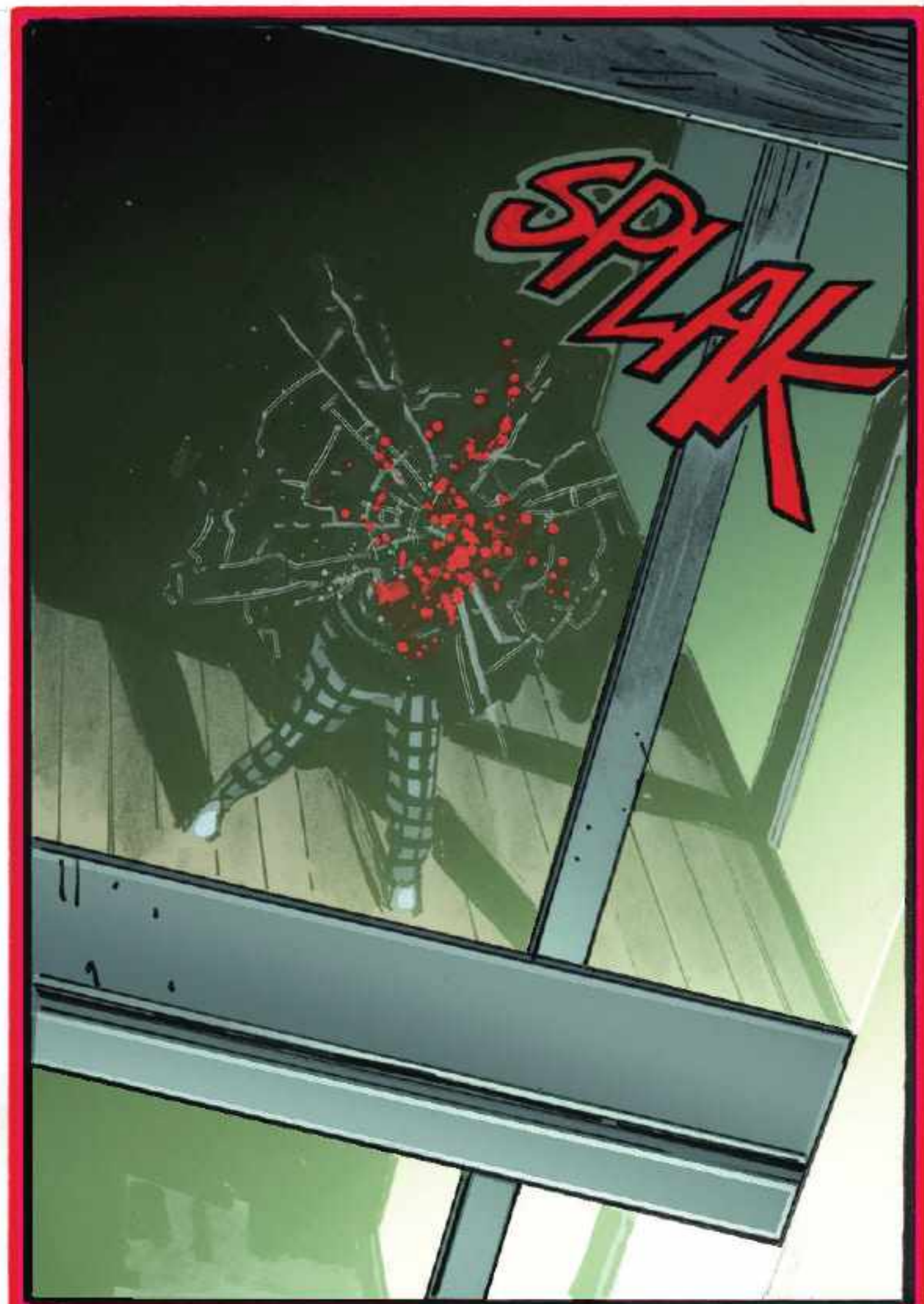
This will
be the final
test if this goes
like the others,
Nimrod.

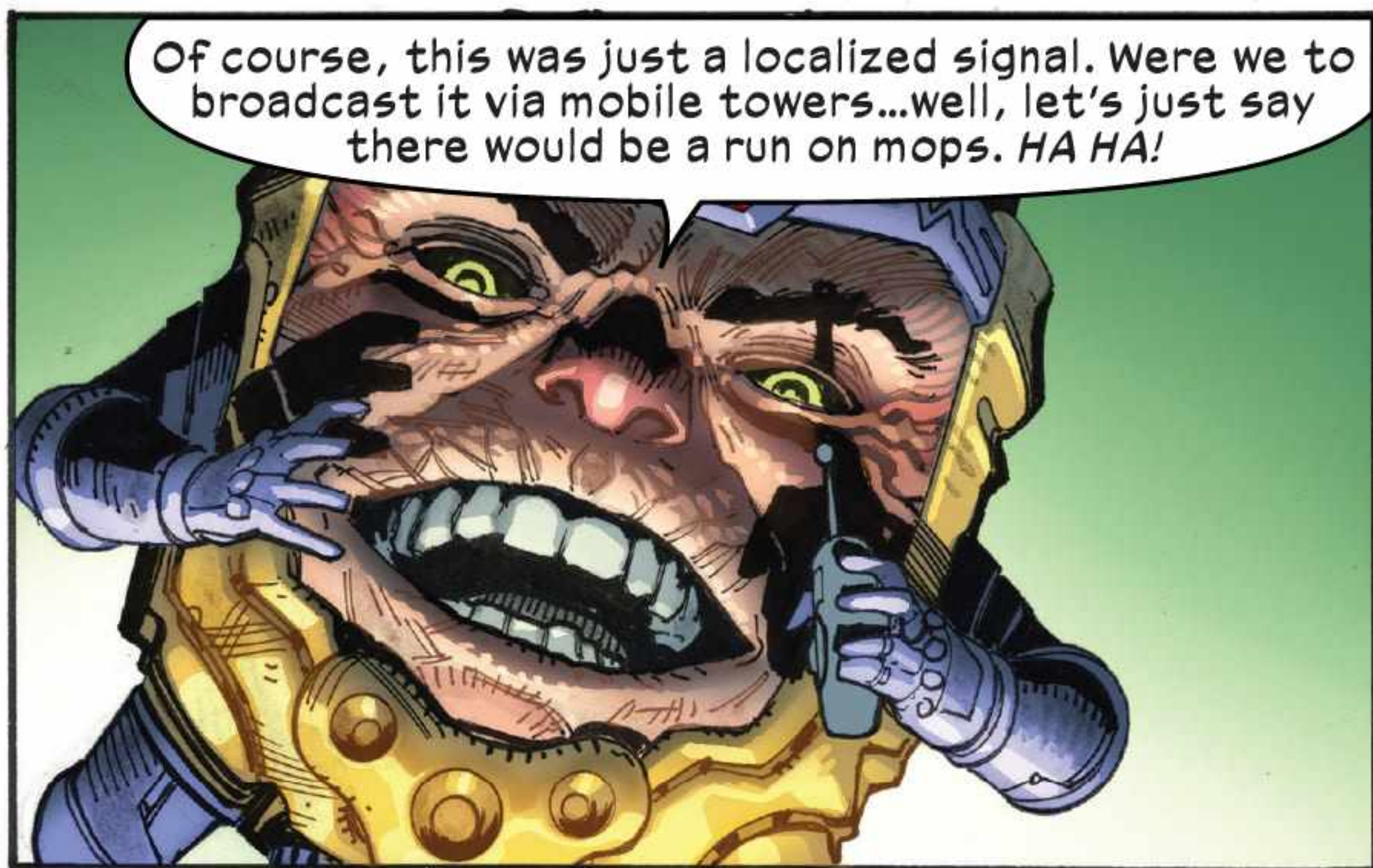
M.O.D.O.K.,
do you
agree?

Oh, I could
do this all night,
but I suppose that
would be counter to
our long-term goals.
Last one, Dr.
Stasis.









Orchis had already executed an attack on Krakoa's gift to humanity. The medicines were a soft power for mutants to win hearts and minds of those who hated and feared them.

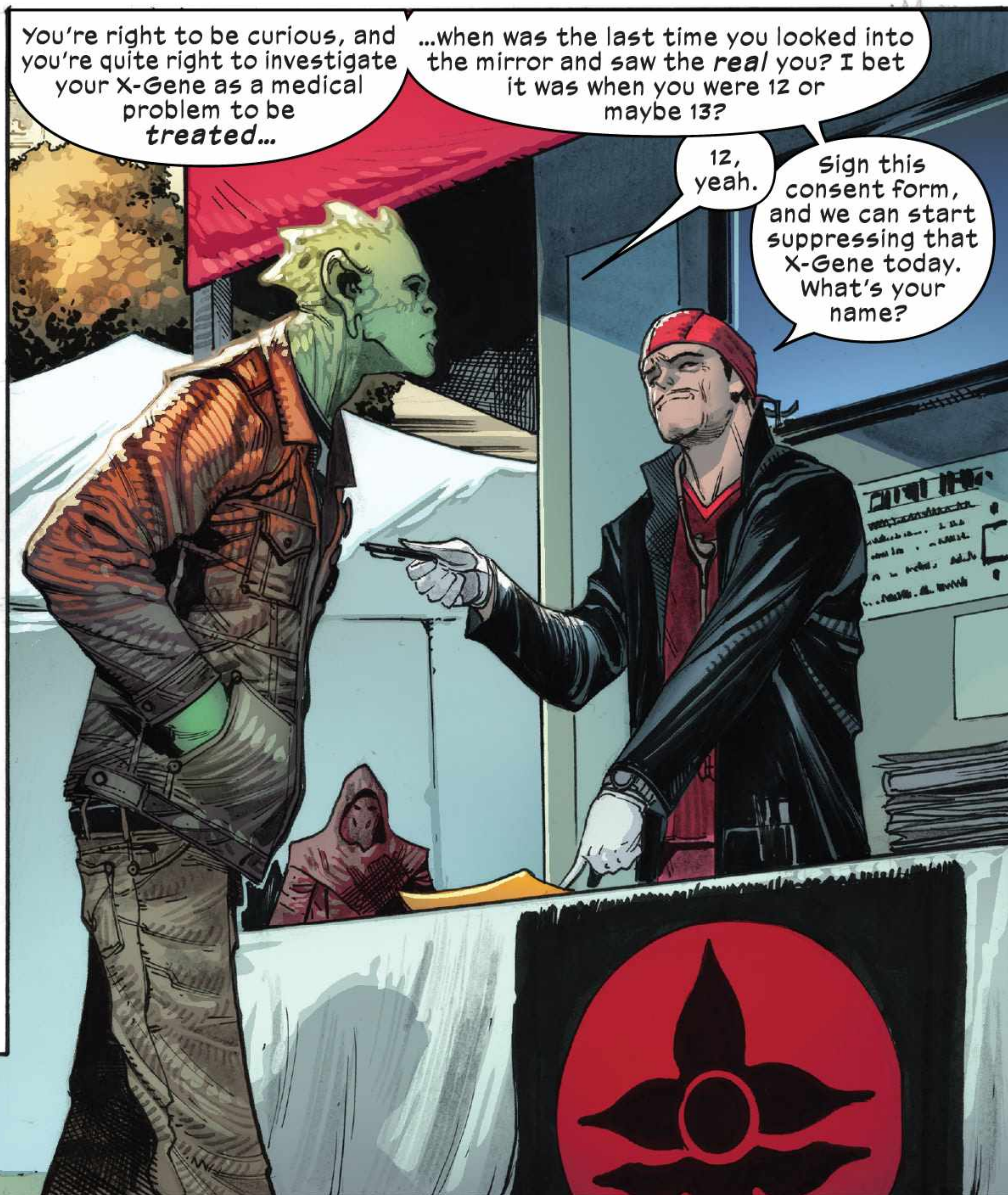
At the same time, Dr. Stasis rolled out his own gift to humanity: the suppression and eradication of the X-Gene. Every day across the country, those looking just to be normal were offered the chance at pop-up clinics like this one in Chicago.

You're right to be curious, and you're quite right to investigate your X-Gene as a medical problem to be *treated*...

...when was the last time you looked into the mirror and saw the *real* you? I bet it was when you were 12 or maybe 13?

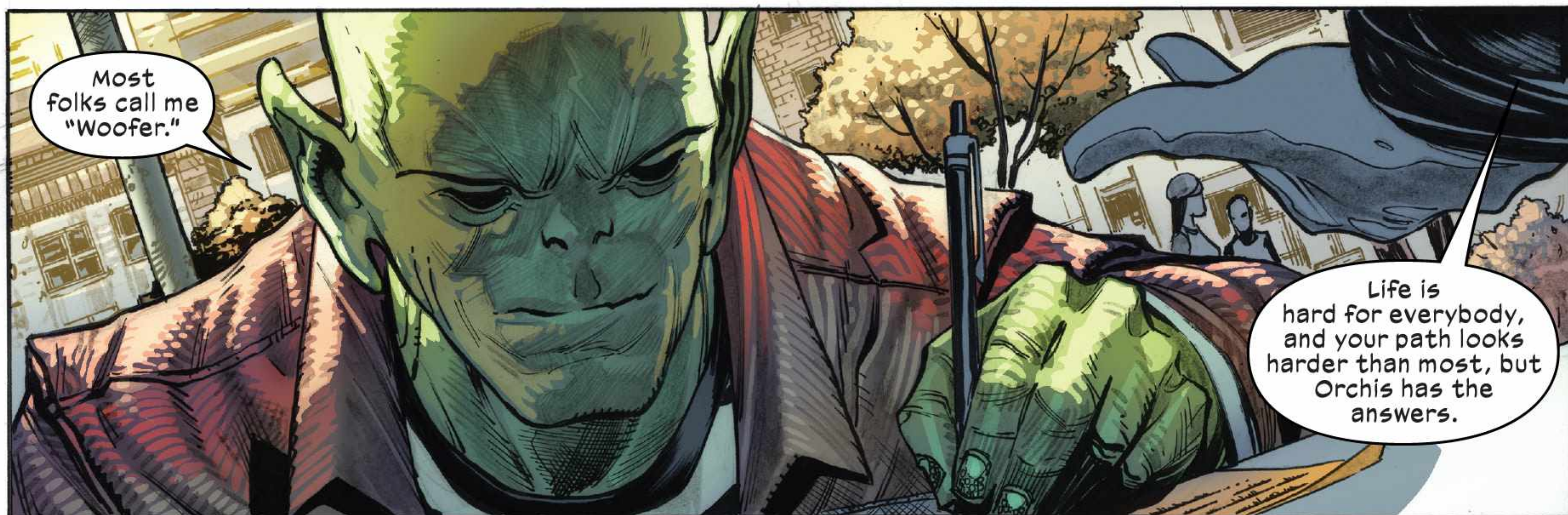
12, yeah.

Sign this consent form, and we can start suppressing that X-Gene today. What's your name?



Most folks call me "Woofer."

Life is hard for everybody, and your path looks harder than most, but Orchis has the answers.



Salvation lies within.

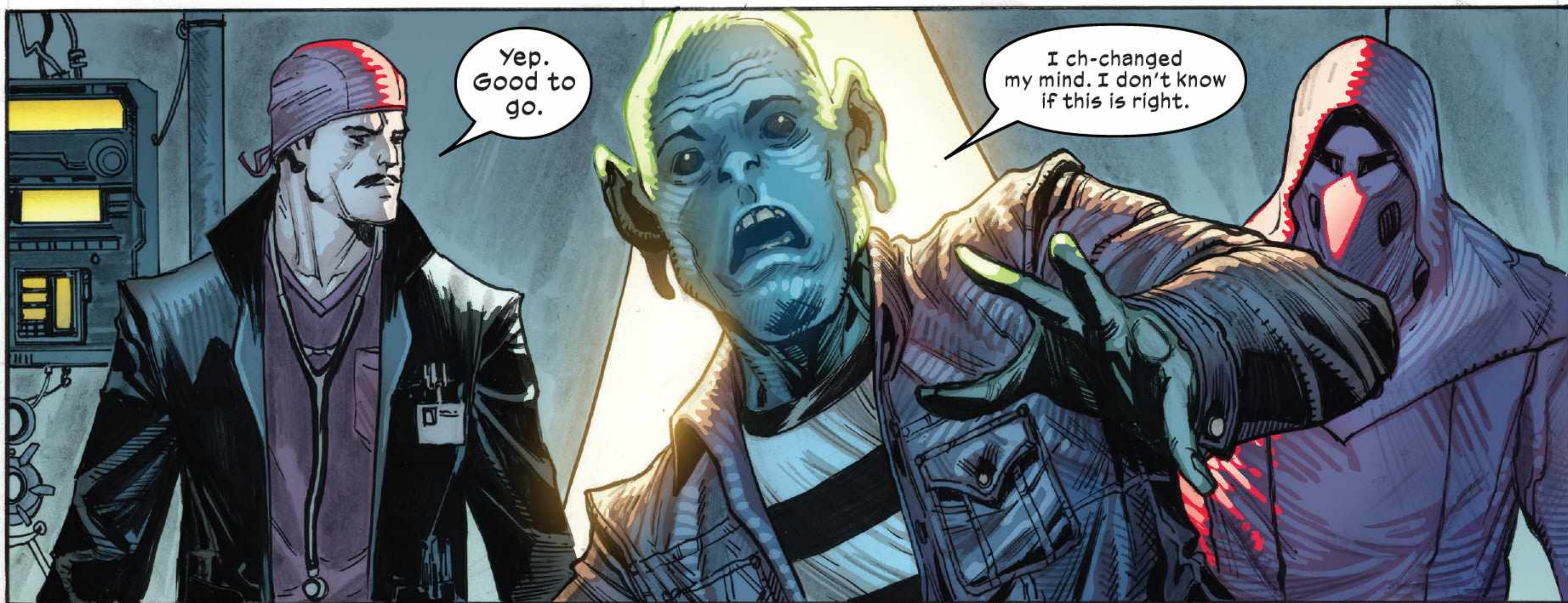
Uh... yeah.





Welcome!

He sign already?



Yep. Good to go.

I ch-changed my mind. I don't know if this is right.



I changed my mind, and--
WHOA!



You heard the man.

Changing one's mind is a fundamental right.



For both mutants and humans.

Anyone who wants to leave, walk to me. Anyone who wants to stop me, well...I suggest you change your mind.

Mmph.



Give me your hand, son.

Cyclops!

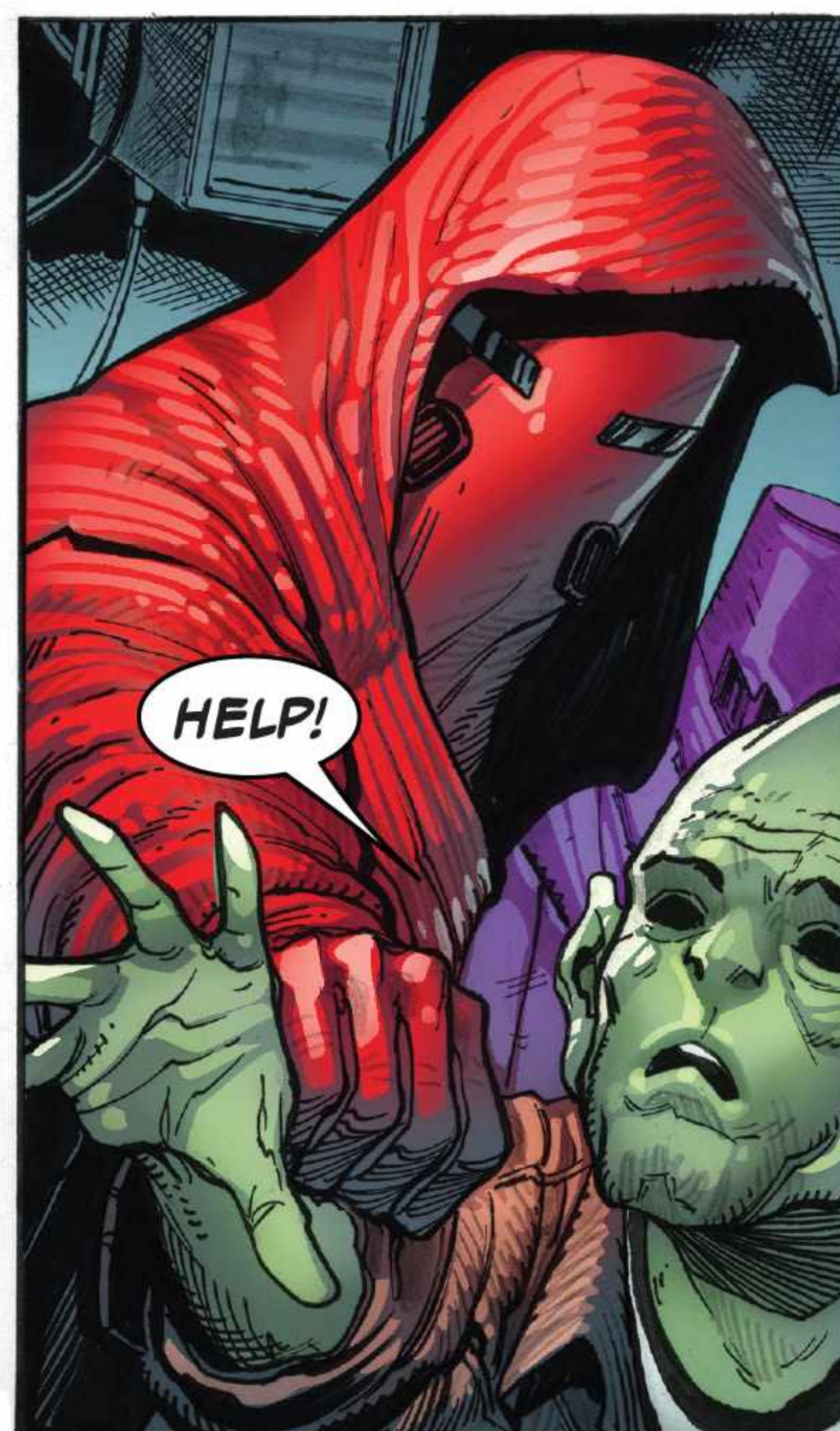


I'm living proof that the X-Gene can be treated. Is that such a surprise?



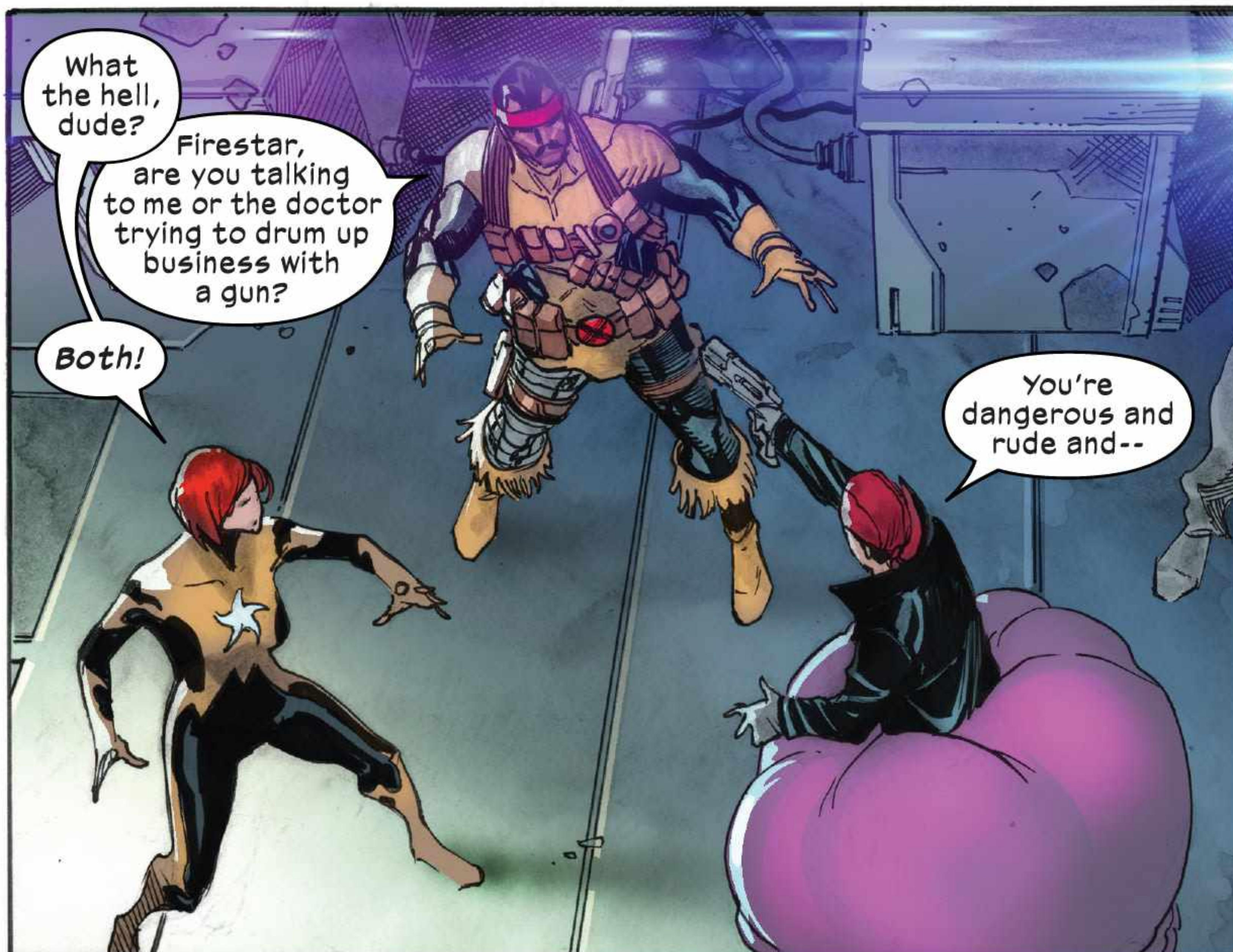
I used to think like you, Doc.

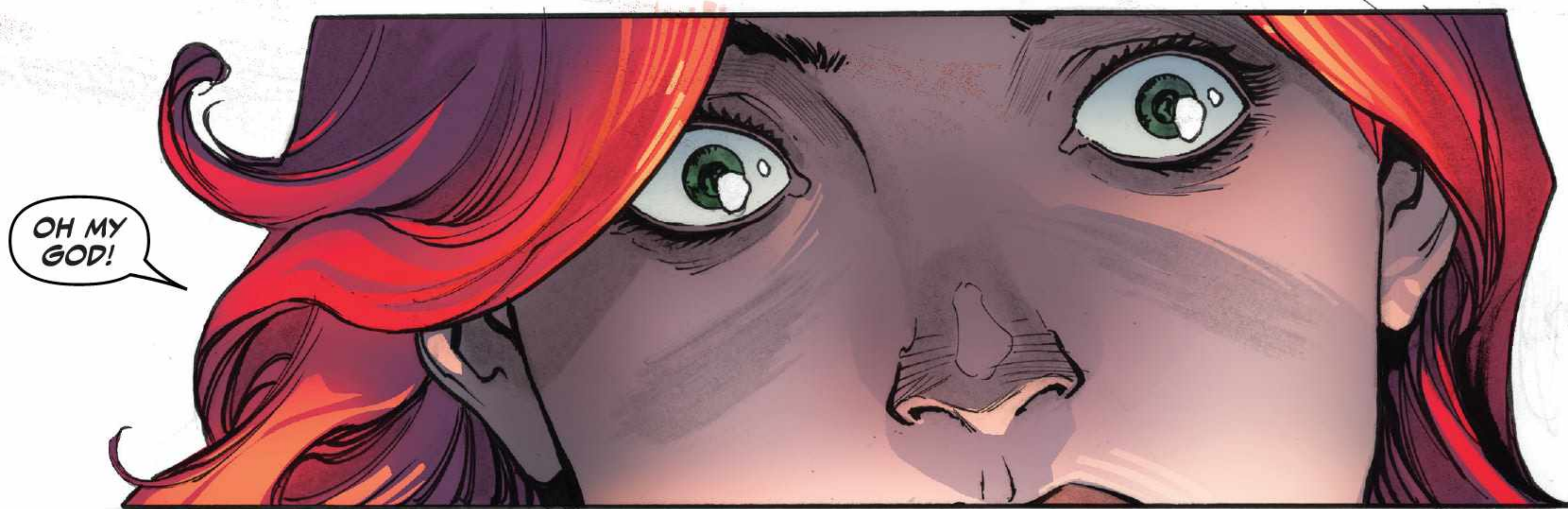
Small. And ugly.



HELP!







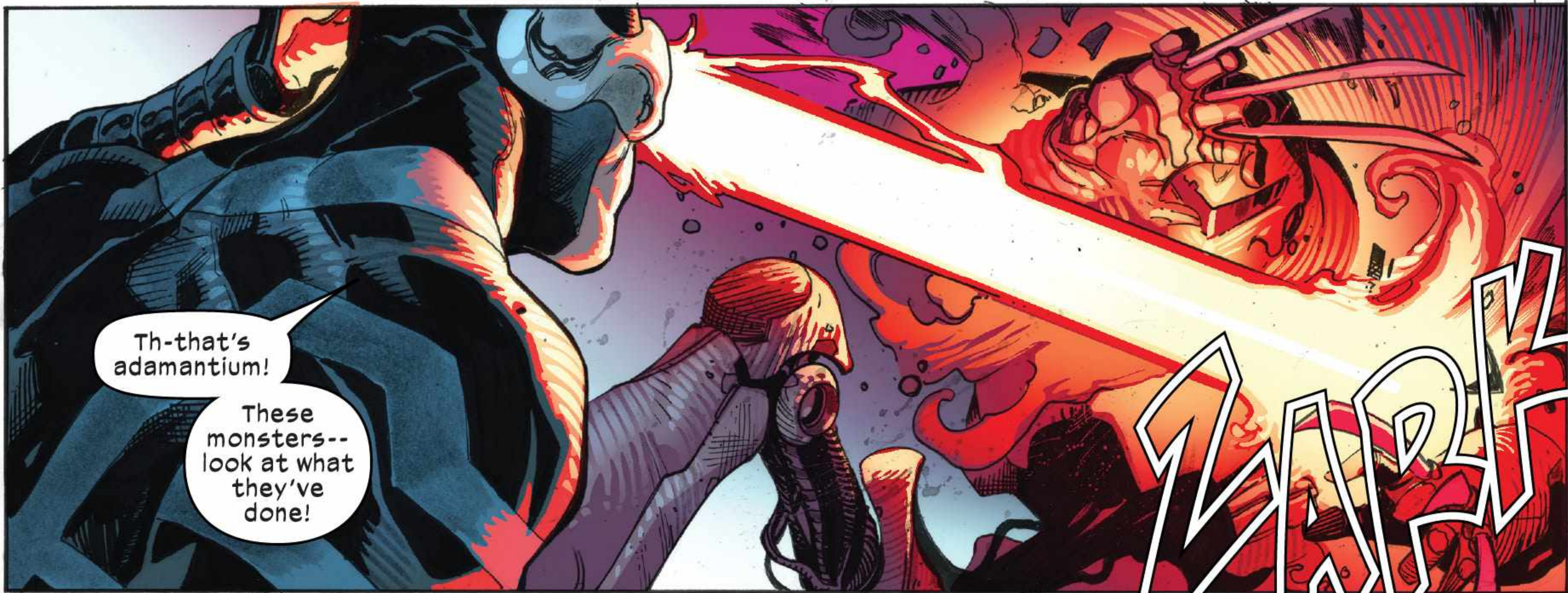
Sentinel Zero
is online.

Orchis personnel
will be protected
at all costs.

SNKT

SNKT

AAAH!



Th-that's adamantium!

These monsters-- look at what they've done!



Actually, I think it's a Sentinel with a chassis built from a dead Logan.

It's pretty clever, I think, but I got something that should put it down.



Aw crud.



I don't suppose you have any combat experience?

Lemme help you up. And unfortunately, I don't.

They call me "Woofers" 'cause I can turn light into sound-- it's dumb.



Firestar, I'm going to need you to cover our withdrawal.

Show me what you got!



Firestar lets loose with her microwave powers and unleashes a blast of heat that is felt for blocks.



From space, the light emitted by Firestar's counterattack is momentarily confused for a nuclear bomb by NORAD.

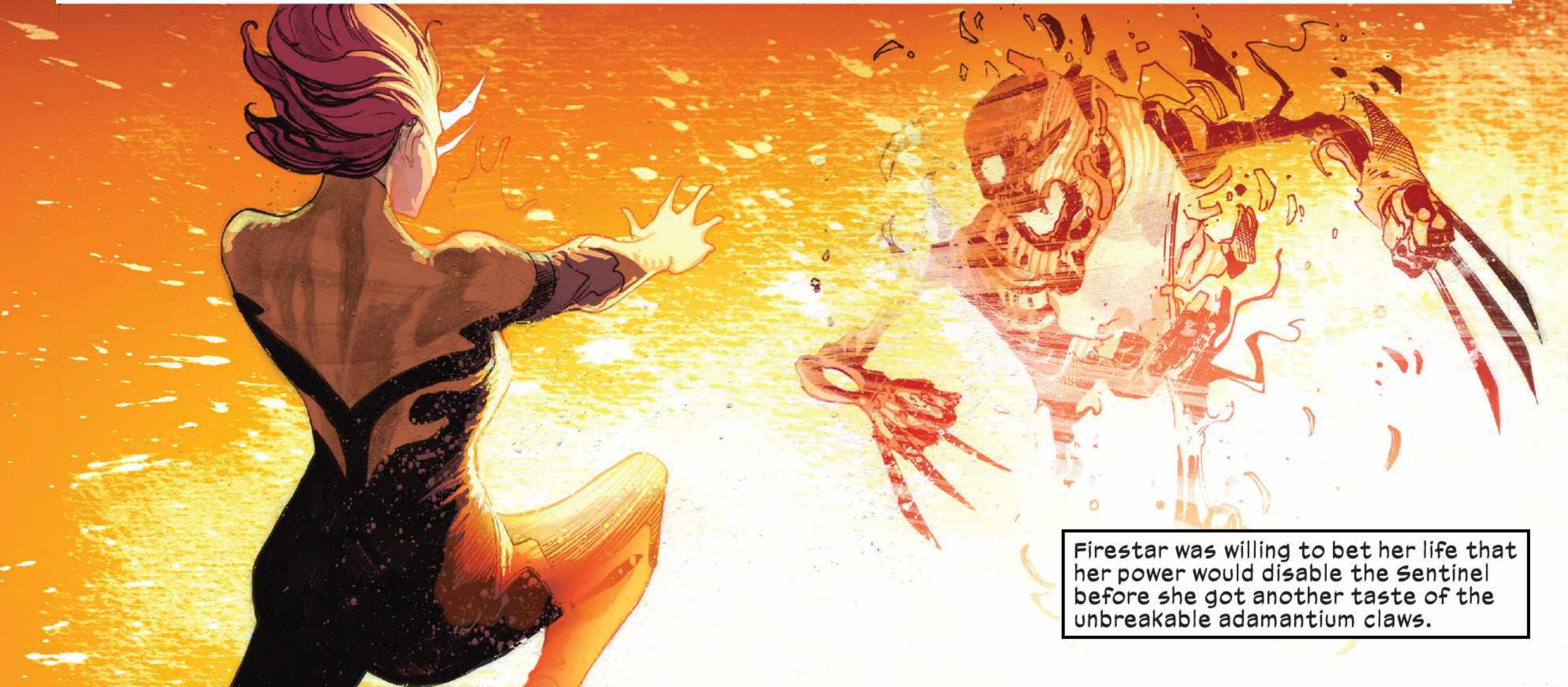


Of course, that light overwhelmed Woofer too.

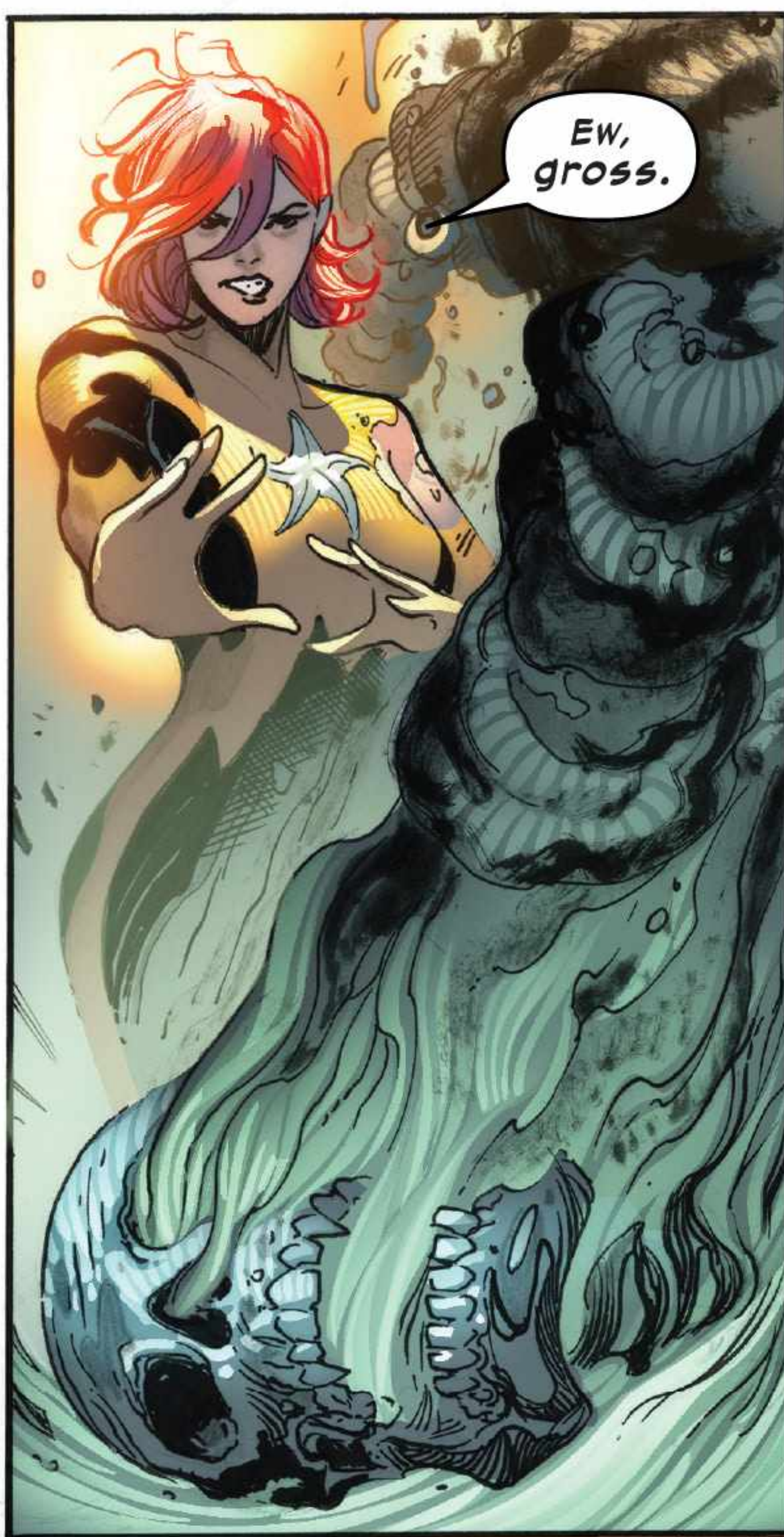
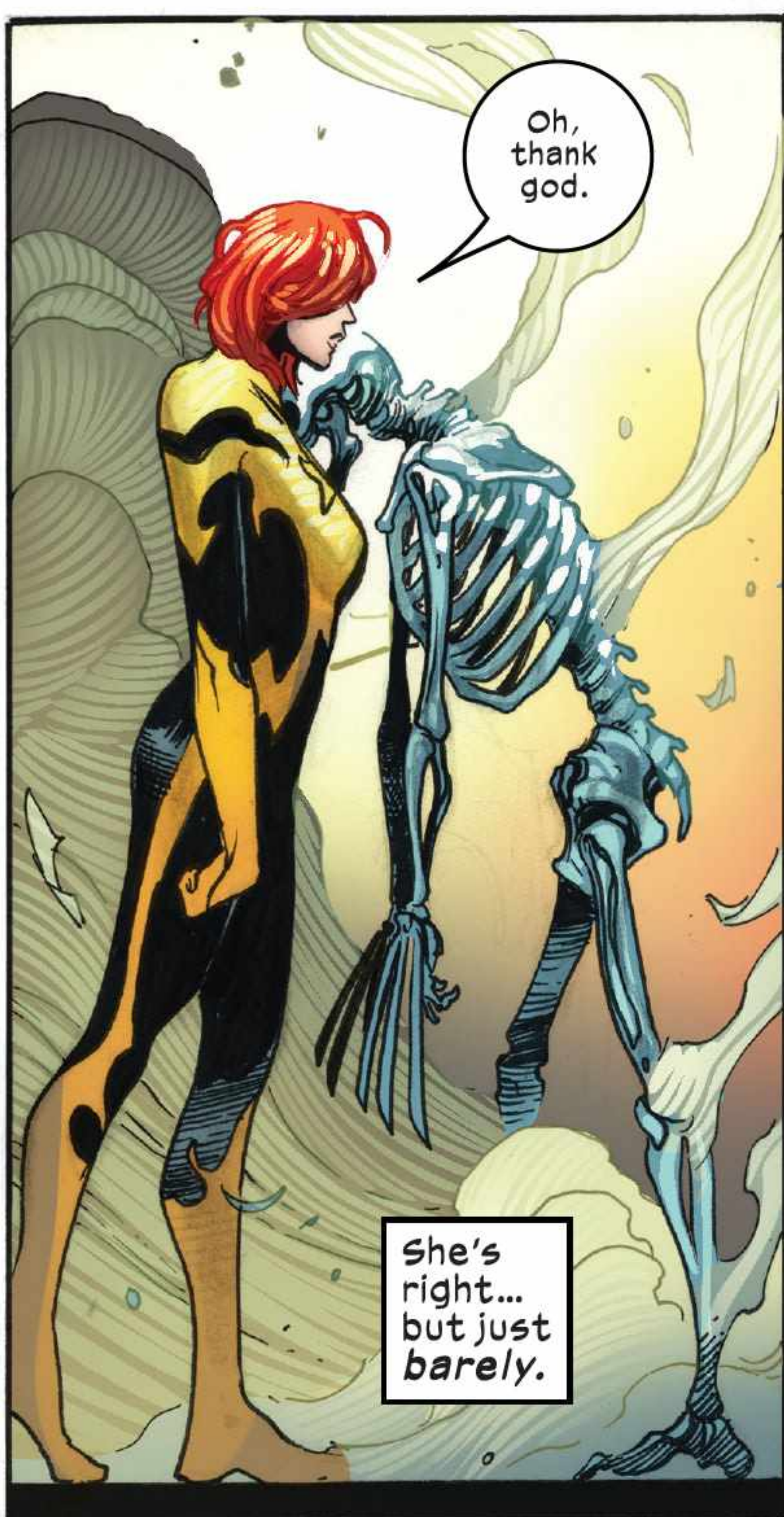


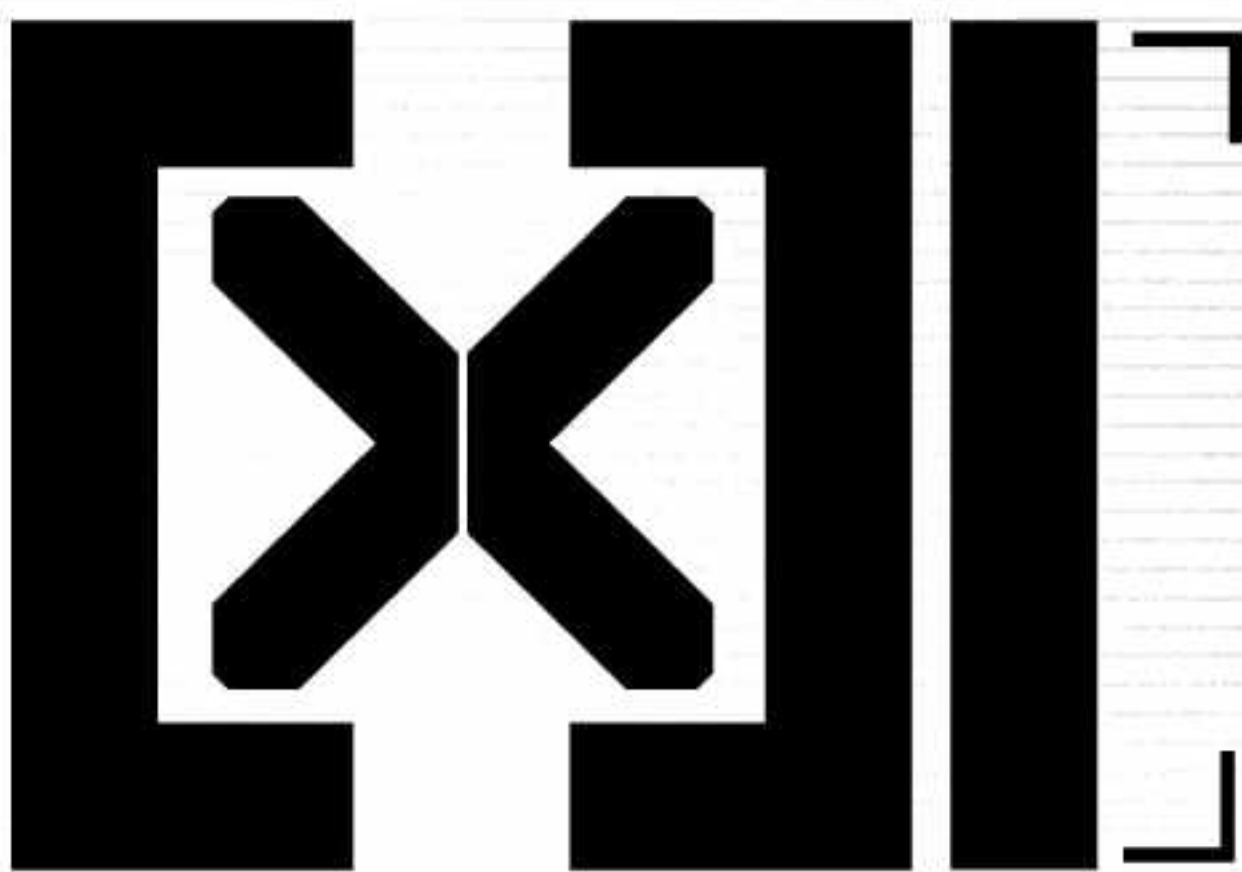
Ow, my ears.

SORRY!
My bad!



Firestar was willing to bet her life that her power would disable the Sentinel before she got another taste of the unbreakable adamantium claws.





A REQUEST FOR STAGE TIME

FAO: Emma Frost

First things first: Firestar has more than acquitted herself, and needed no encouragement from any of the old guard. Your advocating for her was a great call. I thought you'd like to know because I know your relationship is complicated.

The real reason I'm pinging you is to let you know that I'm done holding back. I agreed to build the cradles for Charles, and the containment system to keep the Children of the Vault in stasis. The Krakoaan battle suit was a no-brainer because, let's face it, not all of us are gonna show up in a fight, but I've withheld a lot of my work because I didn't have a lot of faith in the council.

I didn't really have a lot of faith in my fellow mutants. Over the years, we've managed to hurt one another much more than the humans who fear us. My fear has been: What if I made Krakoa too powerful? What if I contributed to the threat assessment on us that is happening every day behind closed doors in every country around the world?

So I've been half-assing it, I'll admit it. I've wanted to see what would happen. Working with Krakoa and Doug, I could've turned Krakoa into an island fortress. I did not think it was in our best interest to do so.

I'll always be available to the Quiet Council and X-Men, but I can feel the winds pushing me onto a different path. Cyclops tested the battle suit for me as Captain Krakoa, and, whether they knew it or not, the X-Men have been testing the Treehouse technology. It's exceeded my lofty expectations, and in the interest of transparency, I'd like to give it to the world. Minus our portal technology, of course.

If we give it to the world -- and I mean the entire world -- we can end homelessness globally in under a month. A strategic reserve of Treehouse biomes could be deployed into disaster areas. As you know, the Treehouse is true carbon-negative and can be cultivated to even grow food. Food and shelter in a can, and I think I'm owed this since I'm essentially making it open-source.

Make it free.

The medicines were the carrot on the stick. Let these biomes be a gift, because we have an abundance.

Firestar reminded me earlier that my number one priority is to save as many people as I can every day, and what better way than to help the victims of late-stage human capitalism?

Let's lead by example.

If you agree, please send Jumbo my way. Otherwise, I'm going to wear jean shorts and a polo shirt to your party.

All the best,
Forge



Later at the Treehouse.

Wait, don't use a flash--



Things have been a little tense around the home of the X-Men. Cyclops and Jean Grey has hit a rough patch. The Brood have been the unlikely wedge between them.

The rest of the team has been giving them their time.



You needed me?

Sorry to interrupt your brooding.

Er, forgive me--poor choice of words.

I'm worried we're losing the hearts and minds of the humans... but I have a plan.

I have just the idea, if I can get a little stage time at the next gala.

But first, I have a question...



...how many times has Logan died and we haven't recovered his damn skeleton?



Uh--



We did it!

Ten X-Sentinels with adamantium are coming online for Orchis!

I grew some human flesh in the lab... why don't we see if we can camouflage this one in meat?



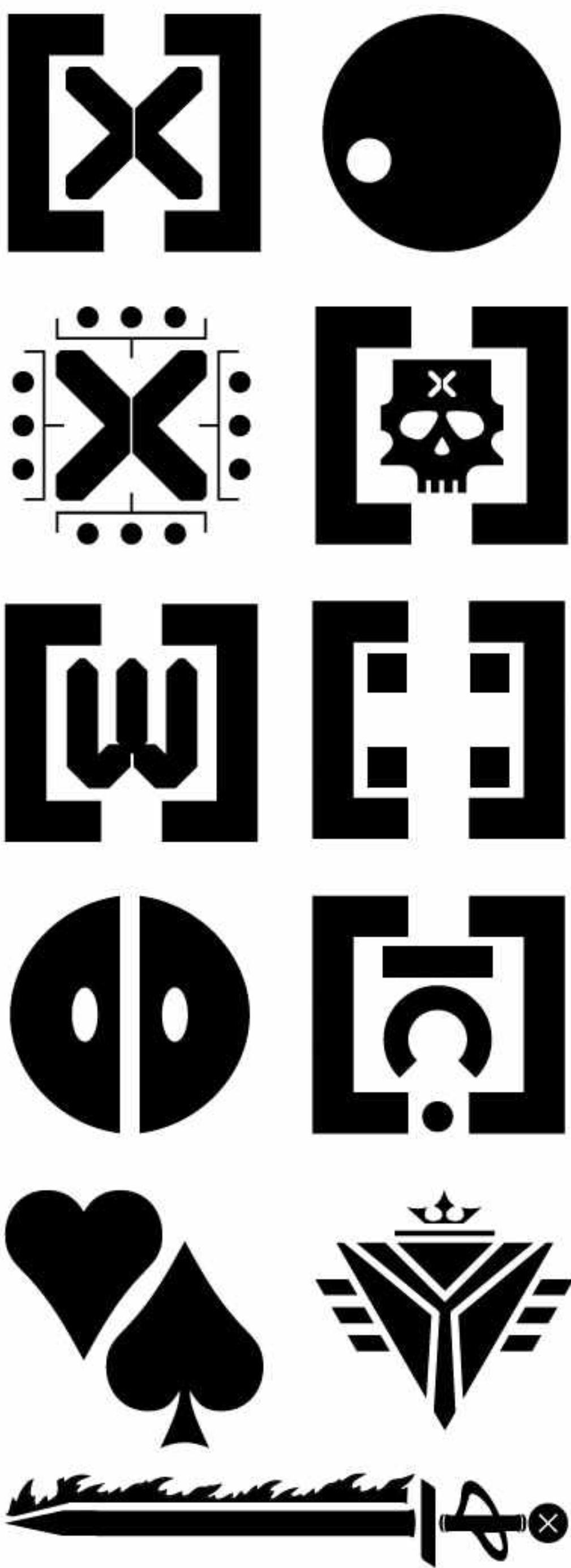
Good show!

bump

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NEXT



ISSUE:

X-Force #40

➤ X-Men #22

Bishop: War College #4

New Mutants Lethal Legion #3

Storm #1

Betsy Braddock: Captain Britain #4

Deadpool #7

Bishop: War College #5

Immortal X-Men #12

X-Men #23

Rogue & Gambit #4

X-Men Red #4

Wolverine #34

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